

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7-13 and 16-18 have been withdrawn. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to put the claims in better form for U.S. examination. No new matter has been added.

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed April 17, 2008 (Paper No. 20080414), Applicants hereby elect claims Group II, drawn to molecular simulation method for dividing a molecule or a part of molecule to be simulated into a QM space and an MM space by replacing a part of the total energy expression concerning the superficial QM region with a term based on the empirical potential; and obtaining total energy in the *ab initio* molecular orbital method concerning the QM space. At least claims 2-6, 14 and 15 read on the elected group. Applicants' election is made without prejudice.

Applicants note that claim 7 was not restricted to a particular group. However, Applicants presume that claim 7, which is drawn towards a device, was intended to be restricted to Group III.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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